

**To: Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**December 9, 2021**

**From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 6B**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 60.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments*, which define the assessment criteria of all Statewide Alaska Assessments.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* were last updated in 2020.
- In Spring and Summer 2021, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) piloted a new statewide Science Assessment and conducted appropriate standard setting and alignment studies to ensure an equitable, Alaska standards aligned assessment. The Science Assessment was developed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). The new Science Assessment will be administered statewide in Spring 2022.
- In June of 2021, DEED contracted with a new vendor, NWEA, to develop and administer a new statewide assessment for English Language Arts and Math beginning in Spring 2022.
- Between July and September 2021, DEED worked with NWEA and DRC to update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* to reflect these updates to the Alaska Statewide Assessment system.
- The final document was completed in September 2021.
- The proposed regulation and proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* can be found behind this cover memo. In addition, to allow for an easier review of the changes made, a track changes version of the proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* can also be found behind this cover memo.
- Kelly Manning, Deputy Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 9B.